Hop-Garden

OR,

DIRECTIONS

For *Planting* and *Managing*

HOPS

LONDON:

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TO

Mr. Bradly.

SIR,

I MUST acquaint you, That the only Reaſon of this Addreſs from a Stranger, is, Becauſe he eſteems you the beſt Writer on the Subject of Gardening, that has for ſome Years appeared among us; and is deſirous to excite you to the Purſuit of your Studies and Obſervations on Nature: for the further Improvement and Recreation of thoſe Gentlemen, who

chooſe to ſpend their Time in the innocent Amuſements of the Country, and their Rents, among their Neighbours and Tenants, rather than waſte Both, as well as ruin the Trade of the Nation in 'Change-Alley.

BUT while I commend your ingenious, correct and uſeful Volumes, I can't conceal my Reſentment at ſome of our modern Scribblers on Huſbandry *and* Gardening. *Since the Act for Encouragement of Learning, they (as well as others) have rais'd their Books to an extravagant Price; yet ſeveral of them, are only bad Collections, out of all Sorts of Authors, without Skill to diſtinguiſh which are Uſeful, and which ought to be rejected: Thus*

we

we have ſeveral exploded and impracticable Directions reviv'd; and, to make the Collection ſeem compleat, and the Volume large enough, ſeveral Subjects are treated of, in which the Writer hath no Experience or Knowledge; and though any Thing valuable appear in the Book, it would have been much better for the Reader to have got it from the Original. Others having hit on a tolerable good Notion or two, muſt commence Authors, and pick up all the Scraps they can meet with, and, for Variety, fly to Books of Mathematicks, Hiſtory, Poetry, *and what not? which, with a Pedantick Eloquence, and ſomething of Self, ſwells what might have been well ſaid, in Two or Three Sheets of Paper, and illuſtrated with as many*

many Plates, into Two or Three Volumes. By this Method, what might have been afforded for a Shilling or Half-a-Crown, a Book-ſeller aſks Ten or Eighteen Shillings; and when a Gentleman buys this new Piece, and finds himſelf diſappointed of the Information he expected, he takes an ill Impreſſion of the Subjects, as well as the Author, and is diſcouraged from further Inquiry into a valuable Knowledge.

Good Nature hinders me from naming Names: But I muſt ſay, That I know no late Book on Gardening, *worth purchaſing, but yours, and the ingenious Mr.* Lawrence's, *whoſe firſt Volume contains full and clear, yet conciſe Directions for a Fruit-Garden:*

What

What is New and Useful in his others, might have been contained in narrower Bounds; but I suppose the Bookseller's *Importunity prevented it. I mention this only, that such Methods of taxing the Publick, may, for the future, be laid aside; and that* Authors *and* Booksellers, *may rather endeavour to keep Books at a reasonable Price, for the Encouragement of Learning, and quick Sale of their Impressions.*

WHAT you have said in your Kalender *on* Hops, *I think too short for Use; and as no Treatise on that most profitable Plantation, is to be had at a reasonable Rate, I thought these Directions might be of Advantage to the Publick. At worst, I hope, the Imperfection*

on

on of them, will provoke You to oblige the World with a more curious and elaborate Diſcourſe on this uſeful Plant; and more particularly,

SIR,

Your very Humble Servant,

J. A.

Maidſtone, May 1. 1721.

THE

THE

HOP-GARDEN;

OR,

Directions *for* Planting *and* Managing *HOPS*.

THE propereſt Soil for *Hops*, is, A rich, warm Land, with a Bottom of Loam or Brick-earth; but any good Ground will do, inriching it with old Dung, or the beſt freſh Earth. If your Soil incline to Clay, mix an equal Quantity of Sand or Shells with the Dung. If the Land be Mooriſh, Cold, or Sowre, burn it; and if too Wet, carry off the Superfluous Moiſture by Drains. Your Ma- The Soil.

nures ought to be mixed with a little Pigeons Dung or Lime. If your Garden has any Declination, let it be towards the South; and if near Water, it will be of Advantage in dry Seaſons.

elter. AS high Winds are very prejudicial to *Hops*, chuſe your Garden where it is well ſhelter'd by Hills on all Sides: Where theſe are wanting, make good Quick-ſet Hedges, with a Row or two of Aſh, where the Land is dry; if moiſt, with Abele, Aſpen, or Popler; and you may plant Oſiers on the Back of the Ditch. The Weſt and South Winds being moſt frequent and ſtormy, are to be beſt provided againſt.

ulture. IF your Ground be rich and deep, plough it well; after which, dig it, and gather and carry away the Stones. If the Soil be poor or ſhallow, it will be neceſſary to trench it two foot deep.

lanting. WHEN the Ground is lay'd even by the Digging, ſtretch your Line parallel to one of the Sides, and at every ſeven foot diſtance, place a ſmall Stick or Feather,

ther, as Marks where the Hills are to be made; and ſo ſhifting the Line, ſeven foot further, mark out the whole Garden: Or rather, make an equilateral Triangle of three ſtraight Pieces of Wood, each ſide being exactly ſeven foot; lay this down on any Part of the Ground, and place a Stick or Feather at each Corner or Angle; then taking it up, place two of the Angles at two of the Sticks, and at the other Angle fix another Stick, and ſo go through, and mark the whole Garden. This is the eaſieſt Method of marking the Hills, and beſt for all Plantations, as it gives a greater Variety of broad and narrow Views thro' the Ranges, and keeping the Plants at equal Diſtances every way, makes the Ground contain one Fifth more than if planted in Squares. Round every Mark dig a Hole a Foot wide, and Sixteen Inches deep: if the Earth be very rich, work it fine with the Spade, and fill the Holes again with it, even to the Surface of the Ground; if not, fill the Holes with a Compoſt or Mixture, of fine freſh Mould, rotten Dung, and a little Roach Lime, a Layer of each; let it lie ſome Days, A Compoſt.

and turn it twice or thrice before uſed. Some plant in *October*, but I rather adviſe *March*, or, if the Weather be mild, the latter End of *February*. When you have got good vigorous Sets, about eight or ten Inches long, with three or four Joints or Buds on each Set; take a Stick one Foot long (ſuch as Gardeners plant Beans with) and plant ſix Sets in each Hole, one in the middle, and the reſt round it, and cloſe the Earth round them with both your Hands; let the Tops be even with the Surface of the Ground, and the Buds upwards, otherwiſe they will die: Cover them Three Inches with fine rich Mould, and take care, both in Planting and Dreſſing, never to cut the down-ſhooting Root.

YOU may plant a double Row of Garden-Beans, between each Row of Hills; as well to yield ſome Profit the Firſt Year, as to ſhelter the Bud, from the ſcorching Heat of the Sun: After the Firſt Year, no Weather will hurt the Hills. As oft as you howe the Beans, weed the Hops with your Hand, and throw more fine Earth on them.

IN

IN a Month's Time, if the Weather be good, they will begin to puſh their Heads out of the Hills. In *May* twiſt the Bind round, and tie it in a looſe Knot: but if they are very ſtrong, ſet a Stick or two to each Hill ſuch as is us'd to *French* Beans.

IN *October*, which is the Time for dreſſing the Hops, let a careful Hand open the Hills, and cut the Bind, a little lower than the Top of the Hill; this muſt be done in dry Weather, becauſe the Earth you lay on them ſhould be as fine as Aſhes; the Hills being thus opened, lay Three large Shovel-fulls of the before mentioned Compoſt, on each of them, and Three or Four Shovels more of the beſt Earth you can get in the Allies; which will keep out the Cold, and be of Uſe at the next dreſſing, in *February* or *March*. Dreſſing.

THE Second Year, you muſt open the Hills, and dreſs them as above; only, you muſt now cut the Bind within an Inch of the old Roots, and with a ſharp Second Year.

Knife, (and a Whetſtone by you, to keep it ſo) cut the the Roots clean off, that are inclining to ſpread outwards. Poles of Twelve Foot above Ground, and Three Inches Circumference, will be ſufficient this Year.

Third Year. THE Third Year dreſs as in the Second. When the Hops are Six Inches above Ground, begin to pole them; they will now, if thriving, require Poles, of Sixteen to Twenty Foot long; put Three to each Hill, at equal diſtances round it, and wide at the Top, inclining a little outwards, leſt they cling together, and hinder the Sun's coming between them. You muſt have an Iron Bar or Pitcher, with a round Handle, to make Holes, in which ſet your Poles at leaſt a Foot deep, and tread the Earth cloſe with your Heels to faſten them well: Put the ſtrongeſt and largeſt Poles, to the moſt thriving Hills; but it is better to under, than over-pole, the Firſt Year or Two, for a Hop never bears well, 'till it has reach'd the Top of the Pole, and come down again Three or Four Foot.

WHEN

WHEN the Shoots, are Three or Four Foot above Ground, employ Women, to tie the Hop-Binds to the Poles, for while young, they are very brittle. Tie Two or Three of the ſtrongeſt to each Pole, and cut away the reſt; woollen Yarn, or withered Ruſhes, are propereſt for this Uſe; they muſt be tied looſe, juſt to guide them up the Poles, for if you bind them hard, they will wither. Tying.

HAVING finiſhed this Work, give your Ground a ſecond digging, and caſt a Spade of Fine Mould on each Hill, to nouriſh it, and keep out the Drought. As you dig, cut away all the Roots you find in the Allies, to prevent their drawing Nouriſhment from the Hills.

THO' it be a general Rule, whenever you weed the Hills, or pare the Allies, to caſt ſome fine Mould, on the Hills, yet this admits of an Exception; for when you find the Binds very vigorous, and full of Sap, you muſt forbear giving

giving them any more Earth: For Excess of Nourishment will do them harm; you can at any Time add to the Sap, by inriching the Hills, but cannot withdraw it at pleasure.

HAVING thus dress'd, poled, and twice dug your Hops, let them rest a while, only take care, with a Joint-stool, or standing Ladder, to guide and tie those Binds to the Poles, which you can't reach from the Ground, or are disordered by windy Weather, which frequently happens.

Watering. IN very dry Seasons, either in Spring or Summer, you ought to water your Hills: But it need not be frequently repeated. If you infuse Pigeon or Sheeps Dung in the Water, it will better nourish the Plants.

AS the Binds seldom run any more in length, after *Midsummer*, such as are not then got up to the Top of the Poles, should have their Tops knipp'd off, or diverted from the Pole, to make them Branch the better.

ABOUT

ABOUT *Auguſt*, the Hop will begin to be in the Bell, or Button, then let your Men with ſharp Shovels, pare all the Allies clean from Weeds, and fling as much Earth on the Hills, as will make them as big as a Buſhel, but throw no Weeds on, nor cut any of the Binds with the Shovel. At the ſame Time, or rather before, let Women ſtrip the Leaves from the Binds, two or three Foot high, that it may let in the Air, and not draw away the Nouriſhment. Shovelling

YOU will know when the Hops are fit to gather, by their changing Colour, and looking browniſh; being eaſily pull'd in pieces; by the Seeds beginning to turn brown, and their coming to a fragrant Smell. Signs of ripening.

THEN it will be Time to pull them; for which purpoſe, get a Frame of Timber, about nine Foot long, and three or four wide, let it ſtand three or four Foot from the Ground, and on each ſide, faſten on Hooks ſome coarſe Cloth or Sacking, hang- Pulling.

hanging hollow; Six Men may ſtand round it to pick the Hops off the Poles, which one may pull out of the Ground, and bring to the Pickers, and lay over the Frame; when the Cloth is full, empty it, and the Hops being clean from Stalks and Leaves, 'till you are ready to lay them on the Kiln, ſpread them on ſome clean and cool Place, that they may not heat, for that would ſpoil their colour. They muſt be pick'd in dry Weather: Therefore, if the Dew, or a Shower happen to wet them, let them dry before they are pull'd.

Drying. ANY good Malt-kiln will ſerve to dry them, but unleſs it be ſo contrived, as to let no Smoak come to them, you muſt dry with Charcoal only. You may lay them ſix or eight Inches thick on the Hair-Cloth, or thicker, if it will bear them. If the Kiln be good, it will dry them in ten or twelve Hours at moſt. Be ſure to lay them very even with a Rake, and up about the Edges, that they may not ſcatter: Keep a moderate but conſtant Heat, and be careful not to dry them too much.

much. You may gueſs when they are fit to turn, by beating them with a Stick; if you find them criſp on the Top, in all places, and that they jump up when you ſtrike them, you may venture to turn them; which you are to do with a Corn-ſhovel, laying them firſt all on a Heap, in the middle of the Kiln, and then ſpreading them even over it as at the firſt, they will generally be fit to turn in eight Hours, ſometimes ſooner. If you turn them when they are in a Sweat, they will ſcorch and grow red; therefore ſlacken the Fire, before you begin, and renew it immediately after you have turned them. You muſt likewiſe let the Fire go out when you perceive them to begin to be dry enough, which you will know, by putting a long Stick on them, and ſtirring it about; if they rattle and leap, they are enough.

THEN take them off the Kiln, and lay them in a Heap, in a cloſe Room, prepared for that purpoſe, and let them lie there for a Fortnight or three Weeks, 'till the Fire is out of them, and they begin

to

to give; which you will perceive, by running your Hand among them: If they handle moiſt or clammy when you ſqueeze them, they are fit to bag.

Bagging. Your Bags muſt be of three quarters-wide Cloth, good meaſure, three Breadths wide, and three Yards and three quarters long; tie one handful of Hops in each of the bottom corners, put a Hoop to the Top of the Bag, wide enough for a Man to go into with eaſe: You muſt have a Hole in ſome part of the Kiln-houſe, that will be deep, and wide enough, to let the Bag hang clear, without touching either ſide or bottom, by at leaſt a Foot; when it is thus faſtned, caſt in two or three Sieve-fulls of Hops, and let a Man goe in, with a clean pair of Shoes, without Heels, and tread them cloſe; throw in two or three Sieves more, and tread them as before, and ſo continue 'till your Bag is full enough to be ſewed up, which when you do, tie ſome Hops in the Corners as at the bottom; and keep your Bags in a dry Place. A Bag of the above Dimenſions will

will contain Two hundred Weight of Hops.

YOU ought to have an Inſtrument call'd a Dog, for the more eaſie drawing the Poles out of the Ground; and when the Hops are gathered, you ſhould carefully ſtack and thatch the Poles to preſerve them from the Weather; or if you build a Shed or Houſe, in or near your Garden, for keeping the Poles, it would make them laſt longer, and be very convenient for picking the Hops in, and other purpoſes.

FINIS.